

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 932

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ray McElhaney of Rutledge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Ray McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, embodying the best of his community, he was a lifelong resident of Grainger County, born to Dewey and Nora Milton McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney honorably served in the Air National Guard from 1951 until 1953; and

WHEREAS, he spent a long, distinguished, and illustrious career as Executive Director of Douglas Cherokee Economic Authority, presiding with acumen and alacrity for forty years, earning the respect of his colleagues for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community and tirelessly working to bring jobs, education, and housing to East Tennessee, Ray McElhaney offered his time and energies to a number of civic organizations, dedicating to each his coveted leadership abilities. He served as a board member of East Tennessee Development District, chairman of Volunteer Housing, and he was a member of the Grainger County Industrial Board for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, a consummate public servant, he dedicated his singular skills to the welfare of the citizens of Rutledge while serving as a member of the Rutledge City Council for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney epitomized the ideal of the consummate professional and had been recognized with numerous awards of distinction, including the Grainger County Person of the Century Award; and

WHEREAS, as a devoted member of Rutledge Baptist Church, he was known for his solid Christian belief, his service and love, and his role as a reservoir of faith and outreach to the people of Grainger County; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ray McElhaney enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-six years, Erva Bridges McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud and loving father of Mike McElhaney and wife, Ida McElhaney, and Karen McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney will be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Aislinn McElhaney and Camden McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, he will also be fondly remembered by his sister and brother-in-law, Ruby and Jack Hodge, his many nieces and nephews, and a host of family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his sister, Hazel McDevitt, and his brother, Roy McElhaney; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McElhaney leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ray McElhaney, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. McElhaney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.